



GUADALUPE - COYOTE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

888 NORTH FIRST STREET RM. 204, SAN JOSE, CA 95112
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JUN 29 1998

June 15, 1998

Attention: Rick Breitenbach
CAL-FED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach;

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. In reviewing the material to date, we feel there needs to be further scientific data before any program is chosen or implemented, especially since there is uncertainty of results on the ecosystem. Our district believes in sustainability of resources, which precludes any additional water releases from the Delta. We believe the construction of new dams would destroy upland habitat which is an unacceptable environmental impact. In addition, this alternative would further impact the fisheries.

A Conveyance facility such as a new canal is extremely expensive and would destroy vast amounts of vegetation and wildlife, which is also unacceptable. We wish to protect prime farmland for agriculture and do not believe CALFED should now set up a system that could urbanize the Central Valley.

Additionally, any pumping of water should be timed with the needs of fish migration, and certainly modern screens need to be installed. These suggestions could easily cut down on vast fishery impacts.

Fresh water flows are the key to maintaining the San Francisco Bay estuarine ecosystem that supports resident and migrating fish and the birds of the Pacific Flyway. The Bay Delta system has enormous importance in this nation's commitment to international agreements to retain biodiversity and maintain healthy oceans and fisheries.

As a Resource Conservation District that wants to conserve agriculture, we also feel that fish are an equally important food source for the country. Therefore we ask that restoration of the South San Francisco Bay be included in the Delta estuary evaluation.

Another concern is the transport of sediments to the bay and to the South Bay in particular. It is important that flushing winter flows be allowed to cleanse the system of sediments. There is no way that dredging can take up the work that a series of heavy winter storms can accomplish to

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maintain a vital Delta. This should be included as a scientific element in the water delivery formula.


The isolated facility and deepened boat channel have enormous environmental impacts and engineering cost associated with them that should be investigated before decisions are made. Costs of installation and maintenance have accelerated to such a degree that our local Water District has almost (this year) ceased to consider new structures as viable economically.

Water recycling and consistent best management practices for water conservation, especially for agriculture should be taken seriously for the first alternatives. We would like to see a conservation greenbelting for agriculture in general as part of this water plan. This is a limited resource which must be preserved.

We believe the public trust must be protected. At present, impacts to the ecosystem are uncertain with the proposed plans. Restoration elements need to be expanded and the public needs more data on ecosystem impacts, costs and maintenance over time before any plan is chosen.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

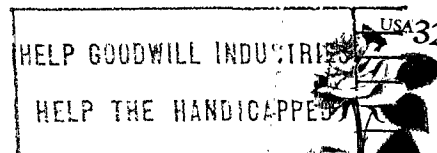
Sincerely,


Larry Johmann, President
Board of Directors



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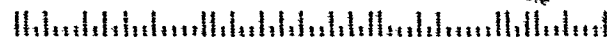


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